In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1   1.   [Currently amended] A method for providing procurement

2   services to a plurality of customer companies <u>with complex</u>

3   <u>accounting rules while providing secure information viewing</u>

4   <u>in support of said customer companies, said customer</u>

5   <u>companies bing organized in a plurality of customer company</u>

6   <u>groups and procurement coalitions for volume discounts and</u>

7   <u>access to shared contracts with respect to a plurality of</u>

8   <u>vendors, with procurement contracts leveraged across company</u>

9   <u>groups,</u> comprising the steps of:

10   <u>providing a front end requisition and catalog server</u>

11   <u>for providing a user interface to a user at a customer</u>

12   <u>company browser to access catalogs and commodities</u>

13   <u>managed by said enterprise and for providing approval</u>

14   <u>notices and receiving approve/reject data with respect</u>

15   <u>to customer approvers;</u>

16   <u>inputs to said front end requisition and catalog</u>

17   <u>server from an enterprise procurement services</u>

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18   system including requisition status, purchase

19   order status and contracts, cost centers, currency

20   exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase

21   order history invoices, purchase order history

22   receipts, and confirmations; outputs from said

23   requisition and catalog server to said procurement

24   services system including requisitions and

25   positive confirmation responses;

26   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

27   server from said customer company browser

28   including submit requisition; outputs from said

29   requisition and catalog server to said customer

30   company browser including approval/rejection

31   notices, status display, and negative and positive

32   confirmations; with notice and response data being

33   exchanged between said requisition and catalog

34   server and browser;

35   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

36   server from a vendor system including vendor

37   catalogs via an enterprise electronic data

38   interchange application;

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39   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

40   server from an enterprise requisition and catalog

41   system including postal code validation data;

42   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

43   server including human resource extract data from

44   an enterprise hub server;

45   providing said enterprise procurement services system

46   managed by said enterprise for accepting requisitions

47   from said front end requisition and catalog server

48   entered by said user and responsive thereto for causing

49   said electronic data interchange application to

50   generate transactions to said vendors and for

51   generating accounting transactions to a leveraged

52   procurement network data warehouse facility for said

53   requisitions;

54   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

55   system from said front end requisition and catalog

56   server including requisitions and positive

57   confirmation responses; and outputs to said front

58   end requisition and catalog server from said

59   enterprise procurement services system including

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60   requisition status data, purchase order status and

61   contracts data, cost center data, currency

62   exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase

63   order history invoices, purchase order history

64   receipts, and order confirmations;

65   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

66   system from said enterprise hub server including

67   cost center data; and outputs to said hub server

68   from said enterprise procurement services system

69   including a company process control table, vendor

70   master updates, and accounting detail;

71   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

72   system from said electronic data interchange

73   application including purchase order

74   acknowledgments, invoices, payment status and file

75   transfer check reconstructions; and outputs from

76   said enterprise procurement services system to

77   said electronic data interchange application

78   including purchase orders, invoice rejections and

79   payments;

80   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

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81   system from operator terminals including process

82   purchase orders, requests for quotes, and

83   contracts data, create/change vendor master data,

84   invoice processing, payment proposal data, and

85   payment post and print;

86   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

87   system including currency exchange rate data from

88   an external financial services server; and output

89   from said enterprise procurement services system

90   to vendors including paper and fax purchase order

91   documents;

92   inputs to said enterprise electronic data

93   interchange application from said vendor including

94   purchase acknowledgments and invoices, and outputs

95   from said electronic data interchange application

96   to said vendor including purchase orders and

97   invoice rejections;

98   inputs to said enterprise electronic data

99   interchange application including payments from a

100   payment source and outputs from said enterprise

101   electronic data interchange application including

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102   payments to customer electronic data interchange

103   applications;

104   providing said leveraged procurement network hosted

105   data warehouse facility for storing and monitoring said

106   electronic data interchange transactions and accounting

107   transactions;

108   providing said enterprise hub server for transferring

109   data between said front end requisition and catalog

110   server, said back-end purchasing system, and said data

111   warehouse facility;

112   inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub

113   server from said enterprise procurement services

114   system including company process control table,

115   vendor master updates and accounting detail;

116   outputs from said enterprise procurement services

117   hub server including human resource extract data,

118   extracted from customer employee data, to customer

119   requisition and catalog system;

120   outputs from said enterprise procurement services

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121   hub server to a customer back-end purchasing

122   system including vendor master data, invoice

123   detail, payment detail and bank clearing detail

124   data;

125   inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub

126   server further including cost centers data;

127   said customer back-end purchasing system also

128   receiving goods receipts from customer receiving;

129   establishing in a computer database a user profile for

130   associating acceptable accounting and system controls

131   to each person authorized by a customer company to

132   access said procurement services;

133   associating each said company with a company group of

134   related companies;

135   providing common code defining workflow components

136   common to all companies within said company group,

137   including accounting validation and approval

138   processing;

139   specifying in said user profile specifying for each

140   said user a user company and company group so as to

141   define said controls based on company and company group

142   by

143   collecting in said user profile each of a

144   plurality of users into a user profile table

145   associating acceptable accounting and system

146   controls for each person authorized by a customer

147   company to access procurement services for

148   leveraging access and maintaining isolation of

149   data by identifying a user at log on as associated

150   with a particular company group;

151   providing in a hub server a company group human

152   resources file connected through a fire wall to a

153   requisition and catalog server for creating and

154   maintaining said user profile table;

155   said procurement services including process

156   requirements and data resources accessible only to

157   those users identified in their profiles as

158   members of a particular company and, therefore,

159   company group and including catalogs, contracts,

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160   cost centers defining departments that can be

161   charged, a chart of accounts defining general

162   ledger account codes, entries in said user profile

163   table, business rules and defaults including those

164   affiliated with accounting and specifying fields

165   that must be completed in creating a requisition

166   and default data to be entered in those fields;

167   providing in each entry for a user in said user

168   profile a company group code, a company code, a

169   plant code specifying ship to location, an

170   employee serial number, and an E-mail address;

171   using said company group code and said

172   company code responsive to user login to

173   associate said user with a given company in a

174   company group for

175   responsive to user selection of a shop-

176   from-a-catalog button on a user browser,

177   controlling catalog application code to

178   display to said user only those catalogs

179   for which a corresponding catalog

180   profile includes said user's company in

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181   said resource profile;

182   specifying departments that can be
183   charged across companies in a company
184   group;

185   selectively allowing a user to initiate
186   requests for other users, view general
187   ledger account codes associated with
188   commodity codes by company group,
189   company group specific business rules
190   including accounting business rule
191   defaults specifying fields required to
192   be filled in by said user based on item
193   being bought;

194   providing for each procurement resource to be shared
195   among said users a resource profile in a computer
196   database specifying for each resource those said
197   companies to have access to and share said procurement
198   resource; and

199   responsive to said user profile and said resource
200   profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

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201   resources.

2-11.   [Canceled]

1   12.   [Currently amended]   System for providing procurement

2   services by an enterprise to a plurality of customer

3   companies with complex accounting rules while providing

4   secure information viewing in support of said customer

5   companies, said customer companies bing organized in a

6   plurality of customer company groups and procurement

7   coalitions for volume discounts and access to shared

8   contracts with respect to a plurality of vendors, with

9   procurement contracts leveraged across company groups,

10   comprising:

11   a front end requisition and catalog server for

12   providing a user interface to a user at a customer

13   company browser to access catalogs and commodities

14   managed by said enterprise and for providing approval

15   notices and receiving approve/reject data with respect

16   to customer approvers;

17   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

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18   server from an enterprise procurement services

19   system including requisition status, purchase

20   order status and contracts, cost centers, currency

21   exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase

22   order history invoices, purchase order history

23   receipts, and confirmations; outputs from said

24   requisition and catalog server to said procurement

25   services system including requisitions and

26   positive confirmation responses;

27   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

28   server from said customer company browser

29   including submit requisition; outputs from said

30   requisition and catalog server to said customer

31   company browser including approval/rejection

32   notices, status display, and negative and positive

33   confirmations; with notice and response data being

34   exchanged between said requisition and catalog

35   server and browser;

36   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

37   server from a vendor system including vendor

38   catalogs via an enterprise electronic data

39   interchange application;

40   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

41   server from an enterprise requisition and catalog

42   system including postal code validation data;

43   inputs to said front end requisition and catalog

44   server including human resource extract data from

45   an enterprise hub server;

46 said enterprise procurement services system managed by

47 said enterprise for accepting requisitions from said

48 front end requisition and catalog server entered by

49 said user and responsive thereto for causing said

50 electronic data interchange application to generate

51 transactions to said vendors and for generating

52 accounting transactions to a leveraged procurement

53 network data warehouse facility for said requisitions;

54   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

55   system from said front end requisition and catalog

56   server including requisitions and positive

57   confirmation responses; and outputs to said front

58   end requisition and catalog server from said

59   enterprise procurement services system including

60   requisition status data, purchase order status and

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61   contracts data, cost center data, currency

62   exchange rates, general ledger accounts, purchase

63   order history invoices, purchase order history

64   receipts, and order confirmations;

65   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

66   system from said enterprise hub server including

67   cost center data; and outputs to said hub server

68   from said enterprise procurement services system

69   including a company process control table, vendor

70   master updates, and accounting detail;

71   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

72   system from said electronic data interchange

73   application including purchase order

74   acknowledgments, invoices, payment status and file

75   transfer check reconstructions; and outputs from

76   said enterprise procurement services system to

77   said electronic data interchange application

78   including purchase orders, invoice rejections and

79   payments;

80   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

81   system from operator terminals including process

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82   purchase orders, requests for quotes, and

83   contracts data, create/change vendor master data,

84   invoice processing, payment proposal data, and

85   payment post and print;

86   inputs to said enterprise procurement services

87   system including currency exchange rate data from

88   an external financial services server; and output

89   from said enterprise procurement services system

90   to vendors including paper and fax purchase order

91   documents;

92   inputs to said enterprise electronic data

93   interchange application from said vendor including

94   purchase acknowledgments and invoices, and outputs

95   from said electronic data interchange application

96   to said vendor including purchase orders and

97   invoice rejections;

98   inputs to said enterprise electronic data

99   interchange application including payments from a

100   payment source and outputs from said enterprise

101   electronic data interchange application including

102   payments to customer electronic data interchange

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103   applications;

104   said leveraged procurement network hosted data

105   warehouse facility for storing and monitoring said

106   electronic data interchange transactions and accounting

107   transactions;

108   said enterprise hub server for transferring data

109   between said front end requisition and catalog server,

110   said back-end purchasing system, and said data

111   warehouse facility;

112   inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub

113   server from said enterprise procurement services

114   system including company process control table,

115   vendor master updates and accounting detail;

116   outputs from said enterprise procurement services

117   hub server including human resource extract data,

118   extracted from customer employee data, to customer

119   requisition and catalog system;

120   outputs from said enterprise procurement services

121   hub server to a customer back-end purchasing

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122   system including vendor master data, invoice

123   detail, payment detail and bank clearing detail

124   data;

125   inputs to said enterprise procurement services hub

126   server further including cost centers data;

127   said customer back-end purchasing system also

128   receiving goods receipts from customer receiving;

129   said requisition and catalog server including a user

130   profile table, a company group human resources file, a

131   new employee profile build application, a table build

132   application and a plurality of procurement resources;

133   said user profile table associating acceptable

134   accounting and system controls for each person

135   authorized by a customer company to access said

136   procurement services for leveraging access and

137   maintaining isolation of data by identifying a

138   user at log on as associated with a particular

139   company group;

140   said hub server including a company group human

141   resources file connected through a fire wall to

142   said requisition and catalog server for creating

143   and maintaining said user profile table;

144   said procurement resources including process

145   requirements and data resources accessible only to

146   those users identified in their profiles as

147   members of a particular company and, therefore,

148   company group and including catalogs, contracts,

149   cost centers defining departments that can be

150   charged, a chart of accounts defining general

151   ledger account codes, entries in said user profile

152   table, business rules and defaults including those

153   affiliated with accounting and specifying fields

154   that must be completed in creating a requisition

155   and default data to be entered in those fields;

156   each entry for a user in said user profile

157   including company group code, company code, plant

158   code specifying ship to location, employee serial

159   number, and E-mail address;

160   said company group code and said company code

161   being operable responsive to user login to

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162   associate said user with a given company in a

163   company group, thereby

164   responsive to user selection of a shop-

165   from-a-catalog button on a user browser

166   controlling catalog application code to

167   display to said user only those catalogs

168   for which a corresponding catalog

169   profile includes said user's company in

170   said resource profile;

171   specifying departments that can be

172   charged across companies in a company

173   group;

174   selectively allowing a user to initiate

175   requests for other users, view general

176   ledger account codes associated with

177   commodity codes by company group,

178   company group specific business rules

179   including accounting business rule

180   defaults specifying fields required to

181   be filled in by said user based on item

182   being bought;

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183   each said company associated with a company group of

184   related companies;

185   common code defining workflow components common to all

186   companies within said company group, including

187   accounting validation and approval processing;

188   said user profile specifying for each said user a user

189   company and company group so as to define said controls

190   based on company and company group;

191   ~~a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among~~

192   ~~said users;~~

193   a resource profile for each said procurement resource,

194   each entry in said resource profile including a

195   resource identifier and specifying ~~those said~~ companies

196   to have access to and share said procurement resource;

197   and

198   said user profile and said resource profiles for

199   controlling user access to said procurement resources.

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13-26.   [Canceled]

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